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Meetings & Demonstrations

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July 24, 1973

Once again, as it was announced, the grand meeting of the military officers and Kabul citizens took place yesterday July 23 at the Pashtoonistan Watt. There were more less 3-4000 people in the crowd surrounding the Pashtoonistan flage near to the Khyber restaurant. The meeting started at 5, and Laludin Penjsheri, a military officer who arrested Gen. Khan Mohd Khan, was introduced as first speaker. Penjsheri said " About three montns ago I was summoned from Nangarhar to Kabul for this national duty. On Monday night I was ordered to arrest Khan Mohd Khan. We went to his house, surrounded the house and asked him to surrender. He told his soldiers to arrest these(us) thieves, but we told him that you yourself are a big thief, and surrunder soon before we kill you. He said 'please dont kill me, please don't tie my hands, and please give me my hat and shoes don't drage me like this'; and we told him that you have to be taken to Daaud Khan in this condition, you have deprived a lot of people from food and clothes, now you have to go like this.

Penjsheri said that Rahim Ghulam Bach was King's pimp and that he caused discordness among the Penjsheris during the last election with the cooperation of other influencial who supported King. He said that Dastagir Penjsheri (Parchami) ~~xxx~~ is a patriot and honest person. He accused Dr. Samad Ali Khan as the supported of King and that he charged higher fees from his poor patients. Penjsheri called the princesses and the Queen as prostitutes, and named king as Zaher-i-Kal.

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Zahir Torkmani is the name of the military officer (Captain?) whom I explained in my earlier reports as the head of the meetings. He once again asked the audience and other countrymen to get in one front to fight against the enemies of the new republic. He invited the people to be brothers and friends of each other and work for the country's progress. Introducing his name he said that he is ashamed of name Zahir, but he said that his personality was much higher than Zahir-i-Kal. Torkmani added that H.M. King Amanullah Khan was the real man who got independence for Afghanistan.

A young man who seemed to belong to Khalq party, gave a speech condemning American imperialism and British Imperialism. He added that the Britishers were once again trying to complicate the situation with the help of Mullahs, as they did against King Amanullah Khan. He once again demanded action against Gari Aman, Zabul, Nashirs, MP's and others. He also demanded the nationalisation of Montaz transport where Queen held 65% of the shares, and the Qaderi Bus Transport.

A police officer (who also seemed Khalqi), also shouted slogans against America and Britian. He claimed that BBC had spread poison against Afghan Republic on the first two days of ~~its~~ the announcement of the new republic. He said that only peoples' republic can cure the wounds of this poor nation.

A man who was pro-Western, found chance to talk. After giving few Islamic slogans, talked against the Eastern and Western imperialism. He claimed that Zahir Shah was the agent of both and

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that he got special previliges (commission) from both sides. He added that USSR was giving a very low rate for the gas exported to Russia.... (at this time the pro-Russian in the group shouted against this man and forced him down the stage).

Another airforce officer who was from Paktia, talked against the old rotten regime of kingdom. He compared the royalty as But-Parasti (idolatry), when he asked the people if there was idolary in Afghanistan before, people shouted no; but he corrected them by saying that yes there was in Zahir's regime. He said that according to the past constitution, King was introudced as the idol of god, and shadow of God; hell with these kinds of shadows (although it was against Islamic rules, but people gave him full hand.)

The meeting ended around 7:30 pm.

✓ Rumors say that Noor Mohd Taraki of Knalq party, is arrested. The rumors add that a radio naming itself belonging to Pashtunistan has started its broadcasts on 31 meter band at 12:30 to 12:30 in the mornings. Some people believe that Ghani Wardak is not killed. People from Kabul and provinces are going to Daoud's residence to congratulate him.

R.C. Mehra

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